(Qty. in tonnes)
(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Year	Production (Crude Mica)	Export	
		Qty.	Val.
1990-91	3827*	42506	5131.09
1991-92 *	3353*	34880	5547.88
1992-93	N.A.	27741	3834.73

(Source : IBM Nagpur) (Source : DGCI&S)
*Provisional.

Both production and exports of mica have shown a decline after decanalisation. However, this is largely attributable to changes in the global market on account of technological obsolescence; product substitution of certain forms of mica; changes in the former Soviet Union and East European countries which were major consumers of sheet mica and due to recessionary trends in the global economy.

(b) Government is constantly reviewing all possible avenues of increasing the export of mica and mica products in the changing global scenario;

BAN ON TOBACCO CULTIVATION AND EXPORTS

2336. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ban tobacco cultivation and tobacco exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what were the reaction of Government for anti-tobacco restriction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Despite anti-smoking campaign, the demand for tobacco is continuing and is likely to continue for some more years

MMTC'S PROPOSAL FOR JOINT VENTURE FOR EXPORTS

2337. SHRI RAMADAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared State owned MMTC's (Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation) proposal for setting up a joint-venture for boosting the exports of marine products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating MMTC's right to export, stake in the equity capital, location of project and total investment involved in rupees; in earlier stage and during full production stage; and

(c) whether Government had earlier approved MMTC's proposal for setting up a joint venture with another private enterprise; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.